

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS VATICAN 000733

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR-BJones and DMennuti; EUR/WE-Levin;
G/TIP for Miller and Eterno; IO

E.O. 12958 N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [VT](#)

SUBJECT: HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM UP
AND RUNNING

SUMMARY

1.(U) Embassy Vatican's anti-trafficking training program for women religious, developed with the support of G/TIP and EUR and in coordination with the International Organization for Migration, completed its first session February 6. The program successfully equipped 30 members of religious women's congregations (nuns) from Italy, Nigeria, Poland, Spain, Tanzania, Romania and Mexico for anti-trafficking field work. This "pilot" program, which provides comprehensive preparation for religious workers active in preventing trafficking and dealing with its consequences, is the first of four funded through PRM. Subsequent sessions are scheduled for the spring in Albania, Nigeria and Romania -- major source and transit countries for trafficking in women. Embassy appreciates the support of PRM, EUR and G/TIP in implementing this initiative.

From Dialogue to Action

2. (U) Participants in Embassy Vatican's May 2002 International Conference on "21st Century Slavery -- the Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings," agreed that faith-based organizations needed to do more to combat trafficking. To build on this consensus and move from dialogue to action, Embassy decided to tap into the potential offered by religious orders active at the grass roots level worldwide to build the numbers of people actively engaged in anti-TIP work. Joining forces with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and with funding from PRM, Post oversaw the development of a pilot training program for women religious. The initial two-week program took place in Rome, Italy from January 29 thru February 6, training women from seven countries on three continents.

Curriculum Prepares for Field Work

3.(U) Classroom sessions focused on the phenomenon of trafficking and on self-help skills for those taking up anti-trafficking work, including general information on trafficking and law enforcement; profile of victims; health care for victims; prevention; how to relate to victims; the empowerment of victims; and protection from burn-out among those working with victims. Each topic was teased out into operational skills to make it practical for participants. After extensive classroom time, the program also exposed participants to the reality of trafficking through field visits to victims' refuge centers and by shadowing personnel working directly with trafficked women forced into prostitution. The evaluation session at the end of the program allowed participants to assess content, tutoring and relevance, and the results suggest the program was hugely successful. Some participants observed that attendance should be compulsory for any female member of a faith-based community engaging in anti-trafficking work.

Media Coverage Magnifies the Message

4.(U) Beyond its direct training impact, the program received significant media coverage, which magnified the anti-trafficking message and reinforced the U.S. commitment to combating this affront to human dignity. The Ambassador attended the opening and closing sessions and addressed the students, emphasizing the importance of their contribution to ending this modern day slavery. Media interviews with the Ambassador, IOM lecturers, and participants were reported internationally in Vatican-related media. Holy See officials in Rome and abroad have expressed interest in the program. The Papal Nuncio in Lithuania, noting his concern for trafficking in the Baltic

States, has asked for further details about the training program for possible implementation there.

Comment: Potential for Growth

5.(U) The pilot anti-TIP training program has proven the value of the anti-trafficking partnership between the USG and faith-based communities. The participants from female religious orders showed a remarkable commitment to prevention and victim care. They will be catalysts for their larger communities, and will likely ensure that anti-trafficking in persons goals are included in their orders' vision and strategy for the coming years. With more than 800,000 nuns worldwide, the potential pool of workers for the anti-trafficking field is enormous. Our program, developed in collaboration with the IOM, has already sparked interest from Asia and South America. Embassy believes this PRM investment is paying out handsomely, and we look forward to working with PRM, EUR and G/TIP to ensure its expansion and continued success. End comment.

Hardt

NNNN

2004VATICA00733 - Classification: UNCLASSIFIED